(b) and (c) Measures to effect cost reduction through productivity enhancement, modernisation energy conservation, automation and computer applications were discussed in the technical sessions.

It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to maximise cement production and ensure its availability to the consumers at reasonable price. Government is closely monitoring the availability of coal, wagons and other infrastructural support to the cement industry and remedial action is taken wherever necessary.

Schemes for increasing the installed capacity of cement are being liberally approved. The State Governments have been advised to keep a close watch on the dealers so that they do not indulge in profiteering at retail level.

Employment generation during the Eighth Five Year Plan

857. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special emphasis is being laid on employment generation under the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what strategy and programmes are contemplated for achieving that objective; and

(c) what is the rate of employment generation contemplated under the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) to (c) The Eighth Plan Approach Document envisages employment as the central thrust of the Plan. Employment opportunities are proposed to be expanded at an average rate of 3 per cent per annum during the decade 1990-2000. For this purpose, the Approach suggests that substantial shifts in the pattern investment in favour of sectors and activities using less capital and more labour per unit of output would be necessary. Details of the strategy and programmes for employment would be incorporated in the Eighth plan document

Protests by press representatives against hike in newsprint

858. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the president of the All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation had tendered his resignation on January 24, 1991, from the Newsprint Price fixation Committee, in protest against the steep hike in newsprint prices;

(b) if so, whether the newsprint prices have been increased frequently in recent times, if so, the details of the increases affected since December 1989 till date and the reasons and justifications for such increases; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the protests made by the press and its representatives from time to time against the hikes in newsprint prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The above mentioned Committee is for the price fixation of imported newsprint which is done on a quarterly basis. The details of the prices since 1989 are in the statement. The prices of imported newsprint are determined by international factors over which Government has no control.

(c) The Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee includes representatives of Newspaper Industry also, who are free to express their views in the deliberations of the Committee meeting and their views are given due weightage.

Statement

Prices of imported Newsprint from 1989 (*per metric tonne*)

	Standard	Glazed	Bangladesh Super Calendar	
1989				
1st Qr.	11,700	12,610	10,985	12,060
2nd Qr.	12,715	12,610	11,910	12,060
3rd Qr.	12,965	13,610	12,145	13,060
4th Qr.	11,715	15,750	10,845	13,200
1990				
1st Qr.	11,170	15,070	10,295	14,520
2nd Qr.	17,070	14,970	10,195	14,420
3rd Qr.	11,510	15,820	10,635	15,270
4th Qr.	11,800	16,650	10,925	16,050
1991				
1st Qr.	12,260	18,145 (56 gsm) 17,645 (60 gsm)	11,335	17,095

Contribution of industry in research and development

859. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of the industry in Research and Development is comparatively too little;

(b) if so, what is the contribution of the Industry—large scale, medium and small scale, to R & D, and what is the Government's contribution thereto; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to increase the industry contribution to R & D expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) R & D in industry by industry is of recent origin in India and has been increasing gradually. Around 20 per cent of the R & D expenditure is incurred by the industry (large scale, medium scale and small scale). Nearly 80 per cent of the R & D expenditure in the country is incurred by the Government through the major research organisations with their chain of laboratories.

(c) The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in the Ministry of Science and Technology has a scheme for recognition of in-house R&D centres in Industry. Compared to about 400 recognised in-house R&D units in 1976, incurring an expenditure of about Rs. 50.00 Crores, currently there are over 1200 units incurring an expenditure of Rs. 775 Crores annually. To encourage R&D in industries, Government has taken several measures which include: presenting awards in recognition of the achievements in industrial R&D; preferential